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To: COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts;
COT Commonwealth Technology Council
Cc: COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security
Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-
Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group
Subject: COT Security Alert: Frauds and Scams

COT Security Alert

The tragedy at Virginia Tech affects us all, and many will feel a need to get additional information about the tragedy and to help in any way they can. Be careful and suspicious when using the Internet or email, as some will take advantage of this tragedy to do wrong. Over 450 new websites have been identified by a leading security organization as suspicious and some could be fraudulent. Malicious spam has already been circulating with an alleged video clip of the event. Fraudulent charitable sites will spring up pretending to take donations for non-existent charities which actually are designed to steal your personal and credit card information. These may come to you as infected emails which you may be tempted to open up and to click on attachments they contain.

COT continues to remind all users to be suspicious and not to open unsolicited emails. Be especially cautious of opening up suspicious emails with attachments, images, or clicking on links or images within an email. The best action to take is to simply delete suspicious emails and SPAM without opening them. Also, verify that a charity is legitimate before providing them with your personal information or donations. Never click on a link to the charity contained in an email, as the link could be a fraudulent link or redirect you to a malicious site. Open up your web browser yourself and enter the website in manually.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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